Maleena Lodhi, on the occasion of presentation of credentials in Washington on 15th February, 1994;

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the reported speech of Pak Ambassador on the same occasion that Kashmir issue was "Worthy of the new global agenda to which both our (PAK & U.S.A.) nations share" and by way of sounding a note of warning her reported remarks "Kashmir was a time bomb that would not go away"; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and what dipolomatic steps have been taken so far with USA and other friendly countries of the world before the ensuing meeting of UNHRC in Geneva?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The MEA official spokesman pointed out that India is committed to uphold human rights as part of her heritage and as enshrined in our Constitution and our laws. The proven role of Pakistan as a State sponsor of terrorism must be taken into account. We regret that no concern has been expressed for the human rights of the victims of the terrorists armed, trained and sent into Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistan. Government have been impressing upon the US and other Governments that the Pak-sponsored Resolution that the UNHRC is politically motivated and that they should vote against the Resolution.

Clinton's Reaffirmation of USA's Alignment with Pakistan over human rights in Kishmir

2296. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the raking up of Human rights issue in Kashmir by US President Bill Clinton, reaffirming his country's alignment with Pakistan on the issue;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto; and

(c) what are the likely setbacks in the Indo-US relations as a consequence thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Government are aware of a statement by the US President regarding human rights in Kashmir. Government have conveyed that it is unfortunate that the remarks on human rights in Jammu and Kashmir have not taken into account the proven role of Pakistan as a State sponsor of terrorism. Government has regretted that no concern has been expressed for the human rights of the victims of the terrorists armed, trained and sent into Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistan. Government have emphasised that India is committed to uphold human rights as part of her heritage and as enshrined in our Constitution and laws.

While maintaining India's interests in all circumstances, Government continue to promote friendly, mutually cooperative and productive relations with all countries including the USA.

News Item Regarding Clinton's offer to PRO-ULTRA Kashmiris

2297. SHRI G. G. SWELL:

CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to a news item "Clinton offers to work with pro-ultra Kashmiris' outfit" which appeared in the Indian Express, Delhi on 7th January, 1994;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to it;

(c) whether Government lodged any protest to the US administration in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?